(b) whether it is a fact that the balance of payments in 1985-86 is around twice that of 1984-85 and it is likely to increase in 1986;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) detailed reasons for Government's inability to check this advance trend in balance of payments; and

(e) whether Government has taken any steps to reduce the deficit in balance of payments in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The trade deficit of the country in 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 is Rs. 6721.1 Rs. 9586.0 and Rs. 7512.5 crores (provisional) respectively. (The trade deficit figures for 1984-85 and 1985-86 are based on the Balance of Payment Statistics published by Reserve Bank of India. Balance of Payment Data for 1986-87 is under compilation. The figure given for 1986-87 is based on DGCIS provisional data).

(c) to (e) The adverse trend in the current account during 1985-86 arose mainly on account of a sharp increase in the trade deficit and a decline in the net invisibles, primarily due to fall in private transfer receipts.

A number of corrective measures have been undertaken to boost the growth of exports and curb the increase in imports. A wide range of export promotion measures have been initiated. As a result, the provisional figures of exports in im-1986-87 show a marked increase of 20.4 per cent over 1985-86. On the import side, the focus has been on measures to encourage indigenous production of key-bulk items, such as sugar, fertilizers, etc.

Shri Win Chadha leaving the country without permission

3864. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Win Chadha, the Bofors agent in India, left the country soon after the Enforcement Directorate raided his office and residence in New Delhi in the FERA violation cases; and

(b) if so, how Shri Win Chadha managed to leave the country in spite of summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate asking him to appear before it to record his statements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Shri W. N. Chadha had left India sometimes in May, 1987 before the Directorate of Enforcement (FERA) searched his office and residential premises on 5.6.87. Based on the scrutiny of the documents seized during the searches, summons were issued directing him to appear in the Office of the Directorate of Enforcement.

Contraband seized at Indira Gandhi International Airport

3865. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contraband goods worth of Rs. 40 lakhs were seized by the Customs authority at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in July, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details of the goods seized and who are the persons involved in it; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the person concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the seizure of gold worth Rs. 43.71 lakhs at Delhi Airport on 26.7.1987. The details of the case are given below:—

On 26th July, 1987, in pursuance of an information, Shri Bhupendra Amarat Lal Mehta an Indian passport holder,

who had arrived at Delhi airport by Flight No. DA-019, was intercepted while walking through the green channel. On being asked to declare if he had any dutiable or contraband goods, he replied in the negative. On personal search, Shri Mehta was found to have been concealing a cloth waist belt under his under garment. On examination of this waist belt 132 gold biscuits of 10 tolas each with foreign markings, totally weighing 15397 grammes valued at about Rs. 43.71 lakhs were recovered and seized. Indian currency worth Rs. 600/- and two travellers cheques for Rs. 1500/- were also recovered and seized. Shri Mehta was arrested under the provisions of Customs Act and was produced before A.C.M.M., New Delhi who remanded him to judicial custody.

Indians on board of directors of companies sponsored by Bofors

3866. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enquired as to how many Indians are sitting on the Board of Directors of companies sponsored by Bofors in India;

(b) what are the products manufactured by such companies in collaboration with Bofors; and

(c) whether Government propose to advise those Indians who are on the Board of Directors to resign to help Government to clear unnecessary criticism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Misappropriation in State Bank of Indore, Agra branch

3867. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that misappropriation of about Rs. 22,00,000 through some letter of credit, Dbp. Bills took place in the State Bank of Indore, Agra Branch in Uttar Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of officers involved in this case; and

(c) the follow up action taken by the Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) State Bank of Indore has reported that there has been no mis-appropriation of about Rs. 22.00 lakhs at its Agra branch. However, bills purchase facility sanctioned to two parties had become irregular because of return of bills. In one case the full amount has been recovered and steps have been taken for the recovery of dues in the other case also. In accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing the nationalised banks and in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers, further information relating to the affairs of the constituents cannot be divulged. The Bank has reported that there appear to be lapses in making assessment of the parties as also in handling the bills purchase business. The Bank has taken steps to fix staff accountability in this regard.

Misappropriation in State Bank of Indore

3868. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether misappropriation of about two crore rupees through some letter of credit bills took place in the State Bank of Indore, Yeshwant Niwas Road branch, Indore recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of employees found guilty in this case; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India have intimated that no case